

Azerbaijan's Support for an Energy Independent Europe



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Today at 12:57 PM

To: ✓ Tavlarides, Mark

Good afternoon,

BGR Group Represents the Republic of Azerbaijan. As you may be aware, Azerbaijan and the United States are set to mark 30 years of relations this year, 30 years after Azerbaijan declared its independence from the Soviet Union. Since then, Azerbaijan has undergone a dramatic transformation, deepening ties with Israel, promoting nonproliferation, and supporting counterterrorism efforts.

In the past year, Azerbaijan has firmly demonstrated its commitment to international cooperation and its alignment with U.S. national interests. Azerbaijan deployed troops to help secure the Kabul airport until it fell, despite no Azerbaijani citizens remaining in Afghanistan, and it is one of the only former-Soviet non-NATO states taking strong steps to support Ukraine's resistance – including sending substantial amounts of humanitarian aid and opening up Azerbaijan-owned gas stations for free to Ukrainian emergency and security services.

Most recently, Azerbaijan's President Ilham Aliyev has received praise from President Joe Biden for his efforts to secure and stabilize global energy markets. Originally designed to reduce dependence on Russian energy, the Southern Gas Corridor's importance has only intensified as Russia seeks to weaponize its energy supply against Europe. Azerbaijan has increased exports to Europe, helping to undermine the leverage Russia had built over the European energy market, enabling the EU to take firmer measures to impose costs on Putin's war of choice, and helping to facilitate true European energy independence.

Please see the attached PDF for a copy of the full letter from President Biden to President Aliyev, noting Azerbaijan's critical efforts to support the European energy market, and recognizing 30 years of strong diplomatic relations.

Please let me know if you have any questions, or would like to engage further with the Embassy about Azerbaijan's alignment with U.S. national interests, its work to stabilize global energy markets, or its efforts to support an independent and sovereign Ukraine.

All my best,
Mark

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